




MEMORANDUM

Date: March 23, 2007

To: California Public Library Directors

From: Susan Hildreth
State Librarian of California 

Subject: Out-of-School-Time Online Homework Help (2007/08) - Request for Applications

Since 2001, the California State Library has used Library Services and Technology Act (LSTA) funds to support online homework assistance. For several years, we worked with Tutor.com to provide Live Homework Help, which is currently available in forty-six public libraries statewide. The online tutoring marketplace has matured over the years, however, making other vendor options available. This year, we successfully piloted Brainfuse, a service similar to Live Homework Help, in the Santa Clara County and Palmdale libraries.

I am pleased to announce that LSTA funds will be used once again to support the State's online tutoring program in 2007/08. We have renamed the program "Out-of-School-Time Online Homework Help" to reflect the growing online homework assistance marketplace. In 2006/07, we were able to extend the program into twenty-one additional libraries through a competitive application process. This current request for applications is being issued in hopes of extending the program into even more library jurisdictions next year. However, due to limited resources, we cannot guarantee that all applicants will be funded. Also, the State Library reserves the right to determine which vendor will provide each participant library with online homework assistance.

Selection of the next round of participants will be based on the following criteria:

- strong evidence of a student population that will use online homework assistance;
- evidence of the library's successful provision of other electronically-accessed services;
- an aggressive marketing plan to promote the Out-of-School-Time Online Homework Help program; and
- a feasible plan for continuing the program beyond the first year.

Extra points will be given to libraries that show an interest in sharing the cost of the Out-of-School-Time Online Homework Help program during the first year.

The conditions of this program and the application form follow. If you have any questions regarding this program or the application process, please contact Library Programs Consultant Cindy Mediavilla at 310/915-8588 or cmediavilla@library.ca.gov. For information about Live Homework Help, please contact Tutor.com's Western Sales Director Susan Hamilton at SHamilton@tutor.com or 925/253-9042. For information about Brainfuse, please contact Francesco Lecciso at flecciso@brainfuse.com or 646/541-6403.